

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/052,068

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

Applicant(s)

BRUDERLIN, ARMIN WALTER

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/2/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12 and 65-75.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 12, 65-67 in the amendment of 8/2/2005: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, *"producing a plurality of hairs representative of a coat of fur; modifying at least one area of hair to provide a visual effect to the area of hair in response to an external influence, comprising for an area: identifying a hair of a plurality of hairs of the area as a clump-center hair, identifying an area size, indicating clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent, determining hairs of the plurality of hairs that are within the area as clump area hairs, the area located according to the clump-center hair and area size, orienting the clump area hairs according to the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent, and dynamically varying the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent to make the fur appear increasingly wet and to provide a variety of dry-to-wet fur appearance"* in a method for generating fur as recited in the independent claim 12.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 68-71 in the amendment of 8/2/2005: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, *"producing a plurality of hairs representative of a coat of fur; modifying at least one area of hair to provide a visual effect to the area of hair in response to an external influence, comprising for an area: identifying a hair of a plurality of hairs of the area as a clump-center hair, identifying an area size, indicating clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent, determining hairs of the plurality of hairs that are within the area as clump area hairs, the area located according to the clump-center hair and area size, orienting the clump area hairs according to the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-*

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percent, and dynamically varying the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent to make the fur appear increasingly wet and to provide a variety of dry-to-wet fur appearance” in a computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, cause the system to perform a method for generating fur as recited in the independent claim 68.

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance of claims 72-75 in the amendment of 8/2/2005: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, *“a memory configured to share data representative of a plurality of hairs representative of a coat of fur; a processor coupled to the memory and configured to modify at least one area of hair to provide a visual effect to the area of hair in response to an external influence, comprising for an area: identifying a hair of a plurality of hairs of the area as a clump-center hair, identifying an area size, indicating clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent, determining hairs of the plurality of hairs that are within the area as clump area hairs, the area located according to the clump-center hair and area size, orienting the clump area hairs according to the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent, and dynamically varying the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent to make the fur appear increasingly wet and to provide a variety of dry-to-wet fur appearance” in a system to implement a method for generating fur as recited in the independent claim 72.*

The cited references Y. Watanabe and Y. Suenaga, "A trigonal prism-based method for hair image generation", IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, 17(3), May 1997, p. 47-53

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(hereinafter Watanabe) discloses *human head model determines or identifies the size of triangle patches and the hair density M for each triangle patch determines the number of hairs in a wisp which controls the hair thickness or selecting the number of triangle patches in the scalp area wherein both the scalp area size is identified and the triangle patch size is identified wherein the area parameters are angle, bend, ratio control, thickness controls, length controls, fold controls, density controls, randomness controls, RGB control, wave controls for the wisp and the scalp area size is identified and the triangle patch size is identified. The cited reference discloses the wisp parameters are the clump parameters being dynamically varied in response to head motion to provide the animated effect in the computer animation of hair.* However, Watanabe failed to disclose “producing a plurality of hairs representative of a coat of fur” and “making the fur appear increasingly wet and to provide a variety of dry-to-wet appearance with the claim limitation of “dynamically varying the clump area parameters including clump-density, clump-size, and clump-percent to make the fur appear increasingly wet and to provide a variety of dry-to-wet appearances.”

Moreover, the examiner also found the most relevant reference dealing with the same subject matter by Bruderlin, A., "A method to generate wet and broken-up animal fur", Computer Graphics and Applications, 1999. Proc., 7th Pac. Conf. 5-7 Oct. 1999, P. 242-249. However, this reference was published later than the application priority date Aug. 6, 1999 and thus cannot be used as a prior art against the present application.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jcw